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of Bismarck, "one of the most sinister characters in history", and to deplore, as Bismarck advanced from victory to victory, that the United Germany "worthy of the soul of Goethe, Schiller, and Kant", which the Liberals had dreamed of, was, instead, a wonderful military machine engineered by Authority and not by Liberty.

Morier's many references to Bismarck are of capital importance. It is a proof of his own worth that, although officially he was only a diplomatic attaché, the inexorable Prussian took notice of him and worked to get rid of him. This was not only because Morier was a Liberal, but because he was a friend of Crown Prince Frederick and Princess Victoria, whom Bismarck suspected of attempting to Anglicize Prussia. When we remember that only a few years before the English had worked themselves into a frenzy over Prince Albert's alleged attempts to Germanize England we shall see the humor of the situation.

Morier's later service was at Munich, where he passed the years 1872-1876. The chapters bearing on the war of 1870, the German Empire, the beginnings of the *Kulturkampf*, and Bismarck's frustrated war scare of 1875 abound in interesting statements and comments, made by an expert behind the scenes.

Mrs. Wemyss has selected from her father's correspondence chiefly the material that bears on his political career. But there are enough extracts of a more personal nature to reveal to us the man himself. He had not only a strong and logical intellect but also affectionateness and charm that endeared him to some of the most eminent men of his time. He possessed courage to the verge of indiscretion, as when in his pamphlet on the Danish Question he satirized his English fellow-countrymen for their habit of not condescending to know what foreign nations thought or did. He was magnanimous, because, as he told Layard, he allowed himself to be boycotted by the Foreign Office for eight years on account of this same pamphlet which he wrote at Lord Russell's suggestion. Before it was printed, however, Russell reversed his policy, and the Foreign Office treated Morier as guilty of treachery to his chief. Why Russell permitted this injustice to continue, we are not informed. We hope that Mrs. Wemyss will give, in a sequel, the story of her father's later career, at Lisbon and St. Petersburg.

WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The American People: a Study in National Psychology. By A. MAURICE LOW, M.A. Volume II. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. vi, 608.)

THE second volume of Mr. Low's work, like its predecessor, is composed of a collection of chapters, each one an independent essay upon the historical origin of some feature of American life or thought. Its

foundation, apart from the author's personal observation, is a bibliography in which are gathered works of all descriptions from text-books to historical monographs and miscellaneous writings on science. As an observer of contemporary American social life Mr. Low shows a keenness and shrewdness which render his comments interesting and sometimes suggestive. He is particularly concerned with the social and psychological effects of immigration, and in several chapters he argues with great vigor to maintain the thesis that it is an unmixed blessing to both the native-born and the immigrant. Whether his treatment of this subject is sound is a matter for the statistician and the anthropologist to consider rather than the historical critic. At all events it seems to coincide with the beliefs of a class of writers with which Mr. Low seems entirely unacquainted, namely, the present-day social workers. But whenever the author turns from existing conditions to the quest of historical origins he enters a field where no amount of keenness in observation can remedy the lack of broad historical preparation. To account for existing conditions Mr. Low restates history to suit himself, omitting whatever does not interest him, and dwelling with continual reiteration upon a few formulae. There is not an atom of real historical criticism, nor of the weighing of authorities or of evidence, in the whole volume. The sole method is to "make points" by the use of telling epithets and striking generalizations, regardless of the precise historical basis. To subject such a form of writing to criticism is a waste of time, for Mr. Low's conclusions, whether true or false, are so patently founded on scanty historical knowledge as to be of little value. It would be easy to fill pages with examples of sweeping generalizations which demand great modification to render them other than absurd. He says of the equal representation of the colonies in the Union of 1643 without regard to the size or population, "This is peculiarly an American political principle. It was as foreign to English ideas then as now." Any one who realized how the House of Commons was composed until the last century could never make so fictitious a claim. Again, "After the Revolution the South had a greater attachment for England than it had for the North or than the North had for the mother-country." It would be difficult to frame a more thoroughly incorrect statement. Again we are told that after the Civil War "the North dealt with the South in a broad spirit of generosity and friendship; the South, a conquered people, at the mercy of their conquerors, suffered no humiliation". These examples are not exceptional they are typical. A further evidence of the inadequacy of Mr. Low's treatment of historical origins is his failure to comprehend the meaning of the westward movement and its bearing on American life and his failure to allude to the development of American governmental methods or American political parties as an influence in developing national psychology, while harping continually on "the Puritan". In fact the book in style and manner reminds the reader irresistibly of the current newspaper literature. It is all smart, clatter-

ing, assertive, consciously original in thought, desirous always to be dethroning some idol, even if it be necessary to erect one of straw for the purpose. To be considered a serious analysis of American history it has not the slightest claim.

Korte Historiae ende Journaels Aenteyckeninge van verscheyden Voyagiens in de vier Deelen des Wereldts-Ronde, als Europa, Africa, Asia, ende Amerika gedaen. Door D. DAVID PIETERSZ DE VRIES, Artillerij-Meester van de Ed: M: Heeren Gecommitteerde Raden van Staten van West-Vrieslandt ende 't Noorder-Quartier. Uitgegeven door Dr. H. T. COLENBRANDER. ('S-Gravenhage: Martinus Nijhoff. 1911. Pp. xliv, 297.)

THIS volume, which is the third in the series of Dutch voyages published by the Linschoten Society, contains a reprint of the rare journal of David Pietersz de Vries, which has the distinction of being the only extensive narrative of personal experiences in New Netherland from the hand of a man who at different times had a prominent share in the colony's affairs. The value of this journal as an historical source has been duly appreciated by American historians; Brodhead and other writers of New York history have made extensive use of it and translations of the parts that are of special interest to the American student have been made available in the *Collections of the New York Historical Society* for 1841 and 1853 and again, in revised form, in J. Franklin Jameson's *Narratives of New Netherland*. The present volume for the first time makes readily accessible the original text, not only of the author's three voyages to America, which took place between 1632 and 1644, but of the accounts of four earlier voyages undertaken between 1618 and 1630 to the Mediterranean, Newfoundland, La Rochelle, and the East Indies. Though the accounts of these four voyages have little independent historical value, they are of interest because they contain practically all that is known of de Vries's early life and help to put us on our guard against his frequent inaccuracies of statement and his possible bias of judgment as a man who at an early stage in his career suffered financial loss at the hands of the West India Company. In an admirable introduction Dr. Colenbrander furnishes an interesting comment on the essential features of the successive voyages and dwells at length on the dispute between de Vries and the West India Company concerning an intended but frustrated voyage to Canada, regarding which the editor was able to gather many important data from the archives of the West India Company and the States General. With regard to the author's life, the editor confines himself to the facts that appear in the journal itself, no attempt having apparently been made to search the notarial archives for contracts or other material that might throw light on the relations between de Vries and his partners in the various trading or colonizing expeditions. In the notes, as far as the